THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. IV.—No. 45. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 1918 Price One Penny

THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

PEACE

At Nottingham during the past week opportunity was given to British Labour to make its voice heard. It was no fault of the Bolsheviks that that voice was more or less out of tune with them. M. Litvinoff, the representative of the Russian people in this country, a one-time political refugee, told a crowded house on the Tuesday preceding the Conference how Labour gained the day in Russia. Brest is the proof of the success of the Bolsheviks, who have given an object-lesson in social reconstruction to the world. But the Russian people, he pleaded, cannot finish a general peace alone; there must be an immediate response from all. This appeal was answered on Wednesday, January 23rd, by official Labour in such a way as to show that the pace set in Western Europe is very much behind that of the Near East. The "Peace" resolution of the Labour Party Executive deals mainly with "War aims," whilst the Russians are actually discussing peace terms with the enemy. Mr. Henderson moved the Peace resolution :—

"PEACE.

"That this Conference representing the organisations affiliated to the Labour Party—

"(a) Welcomes the statements as to War aims made by the British Prime Minister and President Wilson, in so far as they are in harmony with the War aims of the British Labour movement, and make for an honourable and democratic peace;

"(b) Presses the Allied Governments to formulate and publish at the earliest possible moment a joint statement of their War aims in harmony with the above;

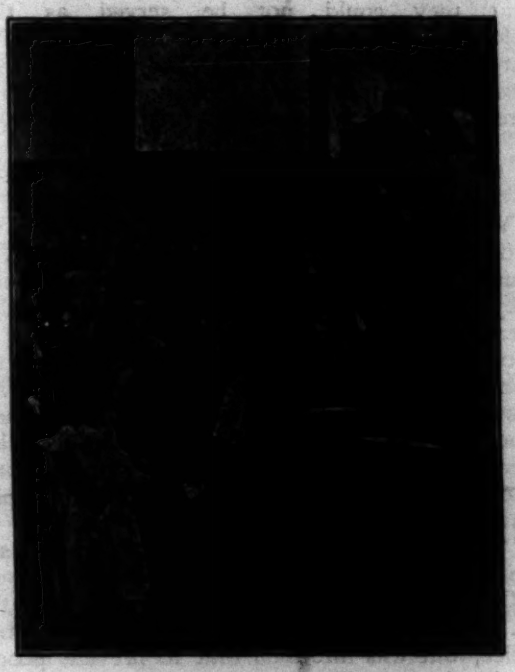
"(c) Approves the arrangements made for the holding of a further conference in London on the 20th February of the Labour and Socialist Parties of the Allied nations on the basis of the War aims of British Labour with the view of arriving at a general agreement among such parties;

"(d) Calls upon the working class organisation of the Central Powers to declare their War aims and to influence their Governments to make statements of their War aims in order that the world may see how far the declaration of all the Powers provide a basis for a negotiated and lasting Peace, and

"(e) Assuming that a general agreement can be arrived at by the Labour and Socialist Parties of the Allied nations directs that their several Governments should be then at once urged to allow facilities for attendance at an International Congress in some neutral State, preferably Switzerland, at which organised working class opinion of all the countries may be represented, in order that nothing may be left undone to bring into harmony the desires of the working classes of all the belligerents.

"That a copy be forwarded to the Prime Minister."

In a flowery and convincing speech to the credulous, Mr. Henderson pointed out that no amendments could be accepted because in that case it could no longer be called an agreed resolution of the Labour Party Executive! The War, he was convinced, has been prolonged unnecessarily because of the delay in stating War aims. We are, I suppose, expected to applaud the Labour Conference after three and a-half years of warfare for demanding that those aims be now stated. Mr. Bruce Glasier withdrew his amendment, feeling, I conclude, that it was better to have this "Peace" resolution carried, even at this late stage, than none. That amendment aimed at removing the Lloyd George and Wilson sauce, so that British Labour might be more forcible. Mr. Henderson affirmed on this motion, and also on another occasion during the Conference, that what mattered to him most was "the attainment of Peace at the earliest possible moment." "A People's Peace" is the supreme question of the hour. Is the fight to restore Alsace-Lorraine going to bring about this object? Did not Mr. Henderson hear M. Longuet state on the eve of the Conference that the return of Alsace-Lorraine to the French without consulting the people of those countries would be as great a wrong as the German conquest of them forty-seven years ago? No; it seems as though Mr. Henderson's sojourn in the Cabinet, short though it was, has blunted



THE LATE MRS. SCHLETTE
(Distributing milk at the Poplar W.S.F. Clinic.)

his feeling for such fine points as this. He, too, with Lloyd George, calls for no annexations, and in the same breath asks for, or acquiesces in the asking for, the return of Alsace-Lorraine. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald seconded the "Peace" resolution, and in a short address referred to the secret treaties, which meant a breach of faith with the soldiers, as well as with the people. Yet, strange to say, this disclosure of underhand dealings on the part of the Allied Governments did not impel Mr. Macdonald to denounce the action of the Labour Executive in grafting its "Peace" resolutions on the "War aims" of one of the parties to those secret treaties! The vote was taken, and loud cheers were raised in support of the resolution. It was a victory for the much-abused "Peace cranks," though I hope that the "rank and file," about which Mr. Robert Williams spoke so hopefully, will not delay to make its voice heard in Peace terms of no mongrel breed, without the iron rod of a Purdy or the diplomatic soothing influence of a Henderson.

LABOUR AND CABINET.

One of the most exciting moments of the whole Conference was when the vote was taken on the resolution of the Manchester and Salford Labour Party, calling on the Labour Members of Parliament to leave the Cabinet. The mover, Mr. Davis, averred that the result of Labour joining the Coalition had been disastrous. "The capitalist Government of the day had permeated Labour instead of the contrary." Mr. Maclean (deportee) denounced George Barnes as "supreme traitor," and went on to show that, if on no other account, the secret treaties should force Labour to leave the Cabinet. Capitalism should be crushed at home before in Germany. Mr. Bromley laid the blame of the length of the War at the door of Labour. Peace would have been here long ago had Labour not lent itself to shield capitalism. He hinted at the possibility of an insurrection here, and called on the Conference to save the situation by saying that those Labour men in the Cabinet were not our representatives. But the wise counsel of Mr. Henderson helped to allay the excitement caused by these condemnatory speeches. He pleaded that the present situation was abnormal, and declared that he, having had the experience of being in a Coalition Cabinet, would never as long as he lived be a member of another Government unless Labour were in control. Yet he would not advise breaking with the Government at this time, and exclaimed: "Am I going to help forward Peace . . . the sooner we get peace the sooner we'll end the Coalition Government. Say you'll never enter another Capitalist Government if you will. . . ." Then

(Continued on back page.)

Of Special Interest This Week

The Food Deputation
Lord Rhondda and the Profiteers

Let Us Dare to Stop Killing Germans

By Rev. G. T. SADLER, M.A., LL.B.

Seven brigands met in an inn and caroused together. They were all armed, and each had, in the past, tricked his fellow as best he could. Some had secured more spoils than others, but none were without riches, seized by force. In their carousal they quarrelled over their gains and their prospects. Two of the brigands simultaneously struck out against one another. The result was that four joined against three, and a general mêlée ensued. The cause of the fighting was not in those that struck out first, but in the wrong lives of armed avarice which *all* of the brigands led. Their greed and pride led to their fight; their greed of gain, and their pride in their valour, which naught might call in question.

What old England needs now is *moral pluck*! We need to acknowledge that we have used the wrong weapon against the militarism of the Central Powers. We have tried to overcome evil with evil. Having taught the world how to seize colonies and concessions by armed force, or threat of it, in the past, we now try to stop the armed force of others by killing their peasants and clerks! But brutal militarism goes on still; and the war-method, after three years, is a pronounced failure, in spite of the bravery—nerve-bravery—of all the soldiers.

(All who act conscientiously and bravely, gain an inner reward, but their work may be in error, all the same.)

The use of armed force has not lessened but increased the belief in armed force, as witness the American enthusiasm for it, and the use of it still in Belgium to hold down the people there.

Adopted as a means "to defend British interests,"* the war-method results in the maiming or slaughter of 20,000 brave British lives every week, and will waste some £6,000,000,000 worth of wealth before we end. Such is the pagan way of obtaining "security" or "freedom," or however a nation's good is described. So with France, and poor Russia! Yet we go on blindly. Why?

Because we refuse to summon up a new *moral pluck* to acknowledge that we are on wrong lines, and must stop!

We need a new divine courage to dare to make peace, dare to disarm; and then dare to share the trade of the world. That way lies security and salvation, not only for ourselves, but for all. If we refuse, and let greed and pride still dominate us, the future may bring a kind of "victory," but only as a prelude to other wars and our ultimate ruin.

* Lord (then Sir Edward) Grey's declaration, five times asserted, on August 3rd, 1914, of why Britain was entering the War.

JOINT DEMONSTRATION ON FOOD

TRAFALGAR SQUARE, SUNDAY, FEB. 10, at 3-30 p.m.

To DEMAND—The Control of the Food Supply by the Workers;
Abolition of Private Profit in Food;
Equal Rationing and Distribution of Food.

PROCESSIONS from North, South, East and West.

North London.—St. Pancras Arches, 2 p.m.
South London—Dun Cow, Old Kent Road, 2 p.m.
East London.—Dock Gates, Poplar, 1.15 p.m.; Roman Road, Bow, 12.45 p.m.; Mile End Waste, 1.30 p.m.; Gardiner's Corner, 2.15 p.m.
West London.—Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 1.30 p.m.

COME IN YOUR THOUSANDS!

Full details and speakers, etc., next week.

Applications for handbills and posters to be sent to—The Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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THE MEANING OF EQUALITY

The speeches of Count Czernin and Count Hertling are by no means flawless from our standpoint, but they are undoubtedly an improvement on the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George. The "Manchester Guardian" is horrified at Hertling's suggestion, made in agreeing to President Wilson's proposal for the freedom of the seas, that claims to strongly fortified naval bases on important international shipping routes, such as Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands, or other points, should be renounced. But, of course, if it were Germany, and not Britain, which had seized from time to time and thereafter maintained these naval bases, the British Government would say exactly what Count Hertling now says. The "Manchester Guardian" also expresses indignation at Count Hertling's reply to President Wilson's proposal concerning colonies:

An absolutely impartial adjustment of colonial claims, the interests of the peoples concerned having equal weight with the claims of the Government whose title is to be determined.

Count Hertling replies:

The application of this principle "will, in this world of realities, meet with some difficulties," but for the present it may be left to Great Britain to come to terms with her Ally in regard to the proposal. Germany also unconditionally demands the "reconstruction of the colonial possessions of the world."

As the Allies did not accept the proposal to join in the Brest-Litovsk negotiations this question concerns only Russia and Germany and her Allies.

The "Manchester Guardian" asks: "Is this a clumsy jest?" We must confess that it seems to us like sound common sense. We British people must learn to realise the meaning of equality. We only make ourselves ridiculous when we cry out against the desire of others to dominate, and demand specially favoured powers of domination on our own account.

But, after all, this is a capitalist's question; British domination, British conquests, spheres of influence, and naval bases do not profit the British workers!

The "Manchester Guardian," in common with a host of other newspapers, asserts that Count Czernin's reply to President Wilson, which shows, as the "Guardian" puts it, that "the Austrian Government seriously desires peace," is due to the fact, again we quote the "Guardian," that "the Austrian Government's hand is forced by its people." Can Mr. Henderson or anyone else doubt that this is so? Vast strikes have stopped munition factories, blast furnaces, foundries, trams, trains, tailoring, and dressmaking; the shops have been shut, and the daily round of workaday life brought to a standstill; the Austrian Government has had to negotiate with the strikers, whose demands were, in the main, political. Count Czernin, the Foreign Minister, has been obliged to promise that peace negotiations would not be broken off on the annexation issue. It was promised, also, that the munition industry should be removed from military administration; that wages should be raised, punishments diminished, and freedom re-established; that the food supply should be reorganised, the franchise popularised, and adult municipal suffrage granted. But the workers are not satisfied, and strikes continue to break out. In Hungary, too, there have been great industrial outbreaks; Buda Pest has been held by the military against the workers, and the strikers have been promised Government support for the policy of peace on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities, and the self-determination of peoples; also franchise reform. Dr. Wekerle, the Hungarian Premier, of course assured the strikers that their action was calculated to hinder peace negotiations; but the Hungarian workers are wearying of such fables, and, as in Austria, so in Hungary strikes continue. The workers are always told that their actions are a hindrance when they try to force the hand of Governments, but it is necessary for the workers to take such action in our own country, as in every other.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION & FOOD

The Ministry of Food conceives that its principal mission is to safeguard the interests of the profiteers. Thus, whilst Lord Rhondda fixes prices which are comfortably high from the traders' point of view, and insists that Local Food Control Committees shall not sell beneath these prices, he refuses to tackle the urgent problem of distribution, and tells the Local Committees to make their own local scheme, and leaves them to settle the question as they please, always provided the sacred interests of the profiteers are not interfered with.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.
BOW WOMEN DEPRIVED OF THE RIGHT TO SHOP ANYWHERE.

On Friday, January 25th, many women came to the W.S.F. headquarters at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, which is situated in the north part of the Borough of Poplar. These women complained that they were treated as "aliens," and that the shopkeepers refused to serve them with provisions wherever they went. The Local Food Control Committee had decided that no one living outside the borough should buy food in the borough, and that purchasers must show their National Registration cards to the shopkeepers before they could be served with provisions. But the boundary line of the Poplar borough winds about. And women who live in the streets running out of the Roman Road, which is the market street of Bow, close to Bow Road, when they held out their cards after standing for hours in the queues (one of them to our knowledge had waited from 5.30 a.m. till past ten), were told that they could not be served as they belonged to Bethnal Green or Stepney. Their cards, as a matter of fact, had been endorsed Bow, E.3, and stamped Stepney or Bethnal Green. These women had registered for sugar in Roman Road and Bow Road, and had dealt in the same district, in some cases, for as long as 28 or 30 years.

Weary and discomfited, they started off to the shops in Bethnal Green or Stepney, which were much further from their homes than those where they usually dealt, only to find that because they were not regular customers in those districts no shopkeeper there would serve them. "I do not know you; go to the shops where you have always bought," was the answer at every shop. They went to the Local Food Control Office, but were told there that in Stepney and Bethnal Green no such Order as that obtaining in Poplar was in force.

"We are treated as aliens: nobody wants us," the women protested.

On hearing the story, Miss Smyth, of the W.S.F., telephoned to the Poplar Food Control Office, but was informed that to prevent people coming into the borough to shop the Order must be strictly adhered to without modification. She urged the miserable plight of the self-styled aliens, and asked that at least those who had registered for sugar in the borough should be allowed to continue to get provisions there. The Secretary of the Committee promised to consult the Chairman, and in reply to our further inquiries we were told that he was consulting the Food Commissioner. Meanwhile, one of the "aliens" got up a petition amongst her companions in distress to present to the Poplar Committee.

On Saturday morning the women again anxiously waited on us, and Miss Smyth again telephoned to the Poplar Committee. She was told that the Chairman and other members of the Committee had discussed the matter with care, but had decided that they could not modify their Order, as to do so would be to oppose the wishes of the Ministry of Food. Miss Smyth tried her powers of persuasion on certain individual members of the Committee, but it was in vain—red tape must be preserved though human beings starve!

Miss Smyth then telephoned to Lord Rhondda, and the great man's secretary consented to hear her story of the unfortunate dwellers on the boundaries. Having done so, he said that it might be taken as an instruction from the Ministry of Food that the Ministry had never intended that persons who had always dealt in a neighbourhood should be debarred from doing so now. Miss Smyth asked the Food Ministry to communicate this decision to the Poplar Committee, and herself made it known to the police and women in the Roman Road, who were much relieved when they learnt that she had been able to induce the Food Ministry to exercise this small amount of common sense.

MORE TROUBLES.

But the boundary question is merely one of the more acute grievances in the mass of hardships which the housewife is suffering in Poplar and other districts.

A working woman, who has twins a few months old, and two other children under three years of age, stood in a queue for hours outside Pearks' Stores. When her turn came to be served she asked for Nestlé's milk, which is absolutely essential to her, as she is feeding one of her twins on it and cannot get it to digest any other sort of milk. She was told that she could not have the milk because she had not registered at Pearks' for sugar, though she had registered there for margarine.

In the Roman Road last week-end rabbits were being sold with their skins on for 2s. 1d. per lb.; women were paying 7s., 9s., and more for a single rabbit. At one shop a rabbit was only sold on condition that an egg was bought at the same time.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

A MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The President of the Law Society's proposal that a Ministry of Justice should be established in this country does not arouse our sympathy, though we feel that much is wrong with legal procedure and the administration of justice. But already there is too much party political bias in our law courts, and we all of us have the uneasy feeling when a political trial takes place that the accused is all but as good as convicted beforehand, and that the magistrate or judge has received his instructions from some power behind the scene. Many of us have not forgotten the evidence given by Miss Marie Brackenbury in one of the suffragette trials of pre-War days. Miss Brackenbury was cross-examined by the accused, who asked her whether she had suffered six weeks' imprisonment in connection with this agitation, and as soon as she had assented the accused asked: "Did Mr. Horace Smith tell you in sentencing you to that term he was doing what he was told?" "You must not put that question!" the magistrate almost shouted. But Miss Brackenbury had already replied, "He did."

The Wheeldon trial is one of the many political cases in which extreme prejudice has recently been shown. But bad as things are, they might be yet worse if the judges and magistrates were servants of the administration in the same way that the Public Prosecutor is, and if they were responsible to Secretaries and Under-Secretaries like those at the War Office and Admiralty.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

A Hague correspondent of the "Times" states that a Dutch motor driver who has returned from work in Germany, reports that Kerensky and Lenin are the popular idols of Germany and have displaced Hindenburg and Zudendorff in popular favour. Lenin should be the popular hero in this country also.

* * * *

The Peterborough Town Council have given permission to Mr. Harry Westgate, veterinary surgeon, to open a shop for the sale of horseflesh for human consumption.

HYDE PARK ARREST

On Sunday, January 27th, Mrs. Bouvier, W.S.F. meetings organiser, was arrested in Hyde Park after speaking for about eight or ten minutes. She appeared at the Marlborough Street Police Court on Monday, January 28th, when the case was adjourned for a week at Mrs. Bouvier's request. She was charged with "using insulting words and behaviour whereby a breach of the peace may be occasioned." Her case will be heard again on Monday, February 4th, 11.30 a.m., at the Marlborough Street Police Court.

FINLAND

A Finnish correspondent of the "Times" states that the fall of the Kerensky Government made the final break in the Russo-Finnish Union inevitable and smugly gives as the first reason for this the fact that "the Bolsheviks appointed a sailor to be Governor-General of Finland and a working man to be his assistant." The second reason given—a more respectable and substantial one—is that since the Allies refused to recognise the Russian Socialist Government, the starving Finns were unable to obtain supplies of food from Allied nations. In the summer, before the Bolsheviks came into power, the Finnish Government bought 40,000 tons of wheat from America, but this has not been delivered. Russia, the Scandinavian nations, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Switzerland have recognised the nationhood of Finland; Britain and the United States—the two nations on which Finland's food supply depends—still refrain from doing so. What causes these lovers of small nationalities to spurn unfortunate Finland?

AMERICAN NEWS

The American newspapers say that one of M. Trotsky's ships has just entered an American port carrying on board one hundred thousand dollars for the defence of Russians arrested in Chicago under some I.W.W. affair. Well done, Trotsky!

RESOLUTION OF I.L.P. CITY OF LONDON BRANCH

"This Branch places on record its indignation at the continued imprisonment with hard labour of many Conscientious Objectors, and calls upon the Government to release them and grant them their discharge from the Army. Copies of this resolution to be sent to the Press, to the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of the Labour Party."

THE W.S.F. FOOD DEPUTATION

A deputation on food, organised by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, consisting of about forty working women was received by Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Denman, Mr. Tom Wing, Mr. Allan Baker, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. R. Lambert, Mr. Rowland Hunt, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Outhwaite, and Sir A. Yeo in a Committee-room of the House of Commons on Monday, January 28th.

Miss Smyth, in introducing the deputation, put forward its demands for peace as the only way of preventing a still further shortage of food; the elimination of private profit in food; the taking over of all food supplies by the State, to be administered by committees of the workers, one-half of which should be women; equal rationing for all; food to be free and paid for by the rates in the same way as the water rate.

Mrs. Brimley (Leytonstone) spoke of her experiences of queues for meat, margarine, and cheese, which a policeman one day last week said amounted to at least 5,000 people in that district.

Mrs. Collings (Kentish Town) said that in her neighbourhood they had queues a thousand strong, and that they did not know what they were waiting for, as when they got to the shop and asked for cheese they were told the queue was for margarine, and they had to fall in again; or they asked for fresh meat and were told it was for bacon. In three queues she was near an expectant mother, who said to her, "If something is not done soon I shall do away with myself. I think it is disgraceful to take away my husband and leave me with nothing to eat." After waiting in three queues she got nothing. "All we find are kidneys, liver, and pieces; where are the joints and the outsides?"

Mr. Outhwaite asked if there were many soldiers home on leave.

The women answered: "Yes, and they all say, 'What are we fighting for if our wives and children are allowed to starve?' "

Mr. Chancellor asked if they were making any agitation about the waste of barley and sugar for the production of beer. Forty thousand tons of the best barley and thousands of tons of sugar were being used every month for that purpose, and since the war began rations for the whole country for forty-three weeks had been used for beer.

The women said they had no knowledge of what was being used for beer, but many public-houses did not open or only opened in the evening because they had no supplies.

One member of the deputation said she stood for three hours in a queue, and then fainted.

Mrs. Edwards (Kensal Rise) advocated a system of equal rationing. "We not only have to go out to work with kiddies waiting for us at home, but we have to stand in queues as well. What we want is peace."

Mr. Denman asked the average time per day spent in queues.

Mrs. Edwards: "If you want anything you have to be out at six a.m., and are at it all day long, and as the shops are shut on Sundays you have to clean the house then if you don't want to live in a pigsty."

Mr. Denman: "What food are you substituting?"

All: "Bread and potatoes."

Mr. Denman asked if corned beef and tinned foods were not too dear, and the women said, "Yes; they were 3s. and 4s. a lb."

Mrs. Burton (Willesden) said that the railwaymen at their meeting yesterday said that they had to work on bread and treacle, and they were going out on strike if something were not done.

Mrs. Birch (Hammersmith) reported that the big stores in her district sent out vanloads of food to the better class, who never stand in queues. The small shops cannot get supplies like the big ones. There were 1,500 women in queues in King Street on Saturday. She went without dinner, so that they could have a nice supper when her husband and daughter came home from work. "It is time the women rebelled, and we had a people's peace now."

Mrs. Walker (Poplar) said that she represented the dockers' wives. She complained that shopkeepers would not serve children; a little boy of ten was turned away, whose father was fighting in Mesopotamia. The dockers wanted to know what had become of the cargo of rabbits from the Euripides, which was the biggest consignment ever sent to this country, and which they had been unloading for the last fortnight. "They also tell me that they are working day and night unloading meat, and they want to know why it is kept in cold storage? The women who go out to work all day cannot get food at night, and as the shops close in the middle of the day they cannot get it in the dinner-hour now."

Mrs. Walker also raised the important question of feeding the children, and asked for free meals for all children in L.C.C. schools. "We mothers can rough it, but we can't see our children starve. Why don't these men get out of the way and let the women do it?" She also complained of the unpractical cooking demonstrations to teach working women, and instanced a case where they were told to use ¼lb. of margarine to make six scones! She complained, too, of the kind of meat they wanted the workers to eat, and the Dutch herrings commandeered by the Government, which had to be soaked in salt water for hours before they were fit to use, and contained no nourishment. "What I want to point out to you is that we want peace, not because food is short, but because of the agony of the men in the trenches." (Hear, hear.)

Miss Rayment (Bethnal Green), who looked overworked and under-fed, gave a sad account of waiting in a queue from seven a.m. till one p.m. for 1½lb. of tough beef, out of which she had to make sixteen dinners. "We are doing work of national importance, and we can't keep on"; whereupon she utterly broke down, and could not continue.

Miss Price (Finsbury Park) said that she had been very careful to ask the women what they were thinking, and they all say that when their men come home they say that they are sick of the war and want to know why their wives and children are allowed to wait in queues and get nothing. "*For the poor* there are queues for food and queues for raids. Lord Rhondda says the health of the people is better than ever before." (All: "No, no.") "It is a disgrace to the Government to allow pregnant women and women with young children to stand for hours in queues."

Mrs. Blake (Hoxton) came with her baby to represent the mothers living in slums. She went to Smithfield Market to get meat at six a.m.; already there were 300 there. She saw no meat, only frozen rabbits, frozen heart, kidneys, and liver. She could not get anything. There was no meat in Hoxton, so the people had to line up for bread. Her family of eight had one pig's trotter, cost 8d., for Sunday's dinner. She had no separation allowance for a month and had to go out to work, leaving one of her children at home ill, who died for want of a mother's care. "There are 800 children in Essex Street, Hoxton, and they have no food. I felt I must be here to know what is being done for the boys who are going to have to protect this beautiful Empire!"

Mrs. Boston (Bow) raised the point of mothers having to keep their children from school to mind the younger ones while they went in search of food, and being summoned by the attendance officer. Also that soldiers are served without having to wait, and so they do not feel it like the women.

Mr. Trevelyan asked if much horse-flesh was being sold.

One of the deputation said she thought so, as it turned black after being cooked, and they all said the meat was of wretched quality. The butchers kept their shops shut, so that you could not see what they had. One butcher cut up a neck of mutton, two chops to the piece, some of the breast being left on, and he charged the full price, 1s. 8d. a lb.

Mrs. Walker said she did not see Lady Yeo and Mrs. Crooks in the queues or the Mayor of Poplar's wife; it was only the poor who had to stand in them.

Mr. Outhwaite said he did not think that anything could be done there, as the Government had taken all power from them.

Miss Smyth said that they had come to-day to give them the backing of thousands of women to enable them to press the Government for their demands.

Mr. Chancellor promised to put forward the demand for equal rationing, but did not think it possible to change the whole system.

Mr. Trevelyan thanked the deputation for coming, and said that they would let their colleagues know what had been said, and Miss Smyth thanked the members present for receiving them, and the deputation withdrew.

The following questions are being asked in the House as we go to press by Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., as a result of the deputation:—

To ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether he is aware that large numbers of men are threatening immediate stoppage of work in order to stand in the food queues instead of their wives and daughters; and whether he has any proposals for avoiding a condition of things where hard-worked men have to go to work underfed while their wives have to desert their household duties to stand in the queues. (Wednesday, 30th January.)

To ask the President of the Board of Education, whether, in view of the food shortage in London at the present time and the inability of mothers, who have to stand in queues all the morning, to cook dinners for their children and the absence from school of many children in order to stand in queues themselves, he will take steps to urge upon the local education authority the desirability of at once instituting school dinners on an extensive scale for the poorer districts of the Metropolis. (Wednesday, 30th January.)

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

January 22nd.—Preferential treatment was demanded by General Croft (U.) for sugar produced in the British Empire. Sir A. Stanley said that he was not yet "in a position" to make a statement. We hope that he will take a different line from the tariff reformers!

TUBERCULOSIS DANGER.

At Maidstone, Mr. King (L.) stated that a tubercular private had to sleep for two weeks on a cement floor with a crowd of men. Previous to being conscribed he had been in two sanatoria, and was warned against sleeping in a room with other persons. Mr. Beck said inquiries were being made. But action should be taken against those who took such a man into the Army.

REWARDED "PATRIOTISM."

For some unaccountable reason, Lady Angela Forbes, who established a canteen at Etaples at the beginning of the War, has been forced to discontinue these activities. The War Office cannot be said to show gratitude to these ladies who give their services voluntarily! The world should be acquainted with the reason for such action.

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B.S.P. RAID.

In reply to Mr. Trevelyan, Sir G. Cave stated that the leaflets seized at the B.S.P. office contained "incitements calculated to civil strife." He therefore refused to return them.

REGISTRATION.

The National Registration (Amendment) Bill was considered in Committee. Major Newman (U.) made a great effort to include girls in the new Act, protesting that they "can do work." Mr. Hayes Fisher pointed out that the object of the Bill was to get those "males" on the register who had become 15 since 1915. At present the inclusion of girls would give the registration officers too much to do. The Act could eventually be extended to girls by Order in Council; but, of course, "the mere fact of their not being included would not in the least prevent their being employed." This statement must amuse those who know the number of girls even under fifteen in industry! Mr. Whitehouse tried to raise the age of registering to sixteen, but without success. Mr. Fisher explained that this Bill is not required for military purposes. A division was taken. Mr. King (L.) moved that the words be deleted which brought the discharged soldier under the Bill. But Mr. Fisher urged that this was to the advantage of the discharged soldier who would thus more easily get work. Mr. Trevelyan (L.) deprecated punishing either discharged soldiers or boys of fifteen should they fail to register. Mr. Morrell (L.) supported him in this and said: "Of course, if underneath it all there is an intention to what is called conscript labour, to carry it from one industry to another, we can well understand why it is desired that this extremely drastic measure should be passed." Mr. Fisher protested that it was there to utilise all the "industrial power." Further, he did not think that any magistrate would fine a discharged soldier who pleaded ignorance of the Act. Later in the debate, when much time had been spent arguing the justice of penalties on boys of fifteen, Mr. Fisher declared that it was never meant to fine any boy under eighteen! He had already justified the fine by saying that otherwise no complete register would be at all possible! The members expressed great dissatisfaction at being fooled in such a way. Efforts were made to include Ireland and also all those who had not registered in 1915, but without result. A further debate is to take place, during which we earnestly hope the opposers of this measure will meet with more success!

* * * *

January 22nd.—Dr. Macnamara tried in vain to defend the Admiralty on the question of convoys for ships. The inexactitude in the returns of the losses of ships was explained away by the statement that the reports were written off Wednesdays of all losses which had occurred up to midnight the previous Saturday!!

IRISH REFERENDUM.

Mr. Byrne (I.N.) asked whether Civil servants are free to record their opinions on the question of the Irish Referendum as to the future Government of that country. Mr. Duke, in reply, stated that the text of the Memorial which was to be signed contained these words: "We appeal to the Peace Congress to secure the establishment of Ireland as an independent State." "Surely," he went on, "such a document could not be signed by any loyal servant of the Crown." Why, then, advocate Government by consent of the governed, if it means only outside the British Empire?

NON-FERROUS METAL BILL.

Despite the opposition of the representatives of the commercial interests, the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Bill was read a third time and passed. This is a distinct step towards protection.

"THEIR'S NOT TO REASON WHY."

The question of Cambrai and the serious blunders committed there was brought up on the adjournment by Major David Davies. Mr. Macpherson, after much beating about the bush, said that the Government was quite satisfied with General Haig. The House showed clearly that it wanted to know on whom the blame of failure should be fixed. Mr. Pringle (L.) strongly condemned the action of the Government in not having at least one member of the War Cabinet present to give information to the House.

* * * *

January 24th. Mr. Beck announced that it was hoped to recruit from non-essential trades more than 100,000 men before the end of September!!!

MILITARY SERVICE BILL.

The third reading of the Military Service Bill was taken. Efforts were again made to limit the power of the National Service Minister in regard to commandeering men. Sir Auckland Geddes, whilst assuring the House that the utmost discretion would be used to remind the members that "the Army has to be maintained." This argument will not appeal to men who want peace negotiations now! The Bill was passed.

* * * *

January 28th.—Mr. Balfour avowed that there was no policy of ill-will to Russia or Russians. Then why not recognise the Bolsheviks?

NATIONAL REGISTER.

A further debate took place on the registration of boys of fifteen. Protests were raised without effect against the paragraph authorising police constables to demand the production of certificates. Mr. Fisher would grant no concession and strengthened his arguments by pointing out that though "we are the great defenders of the freedom and liberty of the people," only fifteen members were in the House! He is quite right to draw these conclusions; but what are the representatives of the people doing to allow such arbitrary measures to be passed without putting up a determined fight? The Bill was passed.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

WHATS' ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st.
Hoxton, 6 p.m., Miss J. Stephen, Miss Beamish.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd.
Great Push for Peace, Socialism and Votes for All in Poplar and Canning Town. Meet 2 p.m. at 20 Railway Street. Speakers: Miss Birch, Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, Miss Rickards.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd.
"Salmon and Ball," 11.30 a.m., Miss J. Stephen.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Miss Price.
Flagstaff, Hampstead, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Finsbury Park, 3 p.m., Miss J. Stephen.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th.
Great Push in Walthamstow.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Rathbone Street, Canning Town, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

INDOOR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st.
St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, 6.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5th.
85 Camberwell Grove, 7.30 p.m., Miss Horsfall.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Speakers' Class. Instructor: Mr. L. Hogben.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7th.
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Russian Revolution and its Lessons for us." Chair: Mrs. Cole.
Co-operative Hall, King Street, Southall, Miss Lynch.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd.
Kingsley Hall, 8.15 p.m., Miss May O. Pelton. Subject: "The Social Aspects of the Sacraments."

FEDERATION NOTES

On January 17th the Manchester Branch held their annual meeting, at which Miss Nagley, 271 Moss Lane, East Manchester, was elected Secretary; Miss Joyce, 95 Lloyd Street, S. Manchester, was elected Literature Secretary, and Miss Cannon, 95 Lloyd Street, S. Manchester, Treasurer. It was decided to hold a Social and Dance on February 2nd at the Liberal Club, Cheetham. Tickets, 1s. 3d. each. The branch is arranging meetings to be addressed by W.S.F. speakers from London.

CENTRAL BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Miss Casey, 29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. The weekly Central London meetings were resumed on Thursday at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. A. L. Bacharach gave a very interesting lecture on "Industrial Unionism." Mr. Bacharach promised us it would be very dull, but he broke his promise badly. Mrs. Bouvier dealt with the "Present Outlook." On February 7th the Rev. G. T. Sadler, on "The Meaning of the State," Mrs. Clara Cole in the chair. Come early to avoid the crush.

BOW AND POPLAR JOINT CONCERT AND DANCE.

There will be a Concert and Dance at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Saturday, February 9th, 6.30 p.m., in aid of the General Fund. Joan Lawson has promised to dance: her father will tell stories; Miss Irene Bouvier will sing; Mr. Williams Vicary will play, and there will be other fine artistes. We hope that refreshments will be obtainable during the interval. Tickets 8d. each, including tax. Members are asked to take tickets on sale or return. Apply to Miss Lynch, 400 Old Ford Road.

MEETING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 6.30 p.m.

The next public meeting at Bow will be addressed by Sylvia Pankhurst and John Arnall. Lancelot Hogben, B.A., B.Sc., will be in the chair. We want the hall packed. Admission by ticket, 1d. each. We hope members will make an effort to sell as many tickets as possible beforehand. Take them to the Trafalgar Square Food Demonstration, February 10th, at 3.30.

JOIN THE W.S.F. AND HELP TO GET PEACE, SOCIALISM, AND VOTES FOR ALL.

LEEDS.

A most successful meeting of the branch was held on Saturday, 26th, at the Friends' Meeting House, Leeds, when Miss May O'Callaghan was the speaker. The chair was taken by Mr. Clay. "Dreadnoughts" and other literature sold well.

BRIGHOUSE.

On Sunday, 27th, at the Brighouse Theatre, two meetings were held under the auspices of the W.S.F., W.P.C., and I.L.P. Miss May O'Callaghan was the speaker, Mr. Hick took the chair. The meetings were unusually well attended and little opposition was noticeable on the question of peace negotiations being entered into **now.** Miss Woodhead has resigned the Secretaryship of W.S.F. and Mrs. Deasy, Labour Club, has kindly consented to act in her stead. Mrs. Sykes will have the "Dreadnought" on sale at the Club weekly. More supporters are needed.

Gratefully Acknowledged.

GENERAL FUND.—Irene, per Mrs. Drake (20s. weekly), £3; W. J. Woods, Esq. (monthly), £2; Misses Gliksten (monthly), £2; Mrs. Dawson Clark, 15s.; Norwood Branch W.S.F., per Miss Lynch, 10s.; H. S. Redgrove, Esq., 6s.; Mrs. Payne, 5s.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Misses Gliksten, £20; C. Oliver Dobell, Esq., £2; Mrs. Beedham (Card), 10s.; Mrs. Mary Parr, 5s.; J. E. Southall, Esq., 5s.; F. Beamish, Esq., 5s.; Miss A. E. Cannon, 4s.; Mrs. Durant, 2s. 6d.; Miss Balchin, 2s.

"DREADNOUGHT" GUARANTEE FUND.—Previously acknowledged (weekly), £2 15s. 7d.; Mrs. A. M. Burke, £5.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss Marion E. O. Wood, £2 2s.; Mrs. Wilson, £2; Miss A. M. Pelly (10s. monthly), £1 10s.; Miss Turner, 10s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 10s.; Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners (Stratford Branch), per Mr. B. C. Stevens, 5s.; Mrs. Robertson (Crèche, monthly), 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 17s. 7½d.; Misses E. and K. Lagsding, J. Watts and T. Barker (Green's Yard and Cubitt Town), 12s. 8½d.; Misses Vine and Gilbertson, 9s. 3d.; Mrs. Newton, 3s. 7d.; St. Paul's Club, 2s.

CLOTHES, etc.—Anon, Miss Hardie, Anon. Per Miss Matters: Freda and Clary Matthews, Mrs. Boswell, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Strachan, Mrs. White.

Montessori Lectures

Lectures on the Montessori method have been arranged for Miss Muriel Matters by the W.S.F. Branches at Manchester on March 7th; Birmingham, March 9th; Brierfield, May 4th and 5th. Any other branches or organisations who would like to arrange meetings for Miss Matters should write without delay to Miss Burgis, 438 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

TYPEWRITING REQUIRED at home; MSS. and Plays; Duplicating accurately done. Terms on application.—Apply Miss A. O. Beamish, 85 Hoxton Street.

WORKING HOUSEKEEPER (live in) REQUIRED by Lady; ten-roomed house near Baker Street Station; no meals required to be prepared beyond breakfast; salary by arrangement; accommodation could be provided for friend; suitable for mother and daughter, two sisters.—Apply Box 400.

PRODUCE FROM A CO-OPERATIVE GARDEN.—To assist in working this you are invited to buy fruit and vegetables now to be supplied in season at market rates.—Apply Box 100.

WANTED, an experienced Shorthand Typist.—Apply Box 20, "Workers' Dreadnought" Office.

WANTED now, Domestic Worker. Good salary; cook and gardener kept.—Apply, Woodthorpe, Stonebridge Park, N.W.10.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS.

Dear Friends of Humanity,—Before the storm bursts let us endeavour to place the children and all those who are helpless in comparative safety by securing SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK each for them from the State, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, whilst they are exposed to cold, poverty and hunger, we can think of nothing else. 7s. a week would ENABLE FAMILIES TO MOVE AT ONCE INTO BETTER HOUSES, and to obtain better milk and food. This would stimulate local trade and reduce expenses of WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PRISONS and LUNATIC ASYLUMS, and do away with all poor rates to such an extent as to be A GREAT SAVING to the taxpayers, and would enable sensible girls to marry where they would otherwise not dare to do so, and to bring up healthy happy children to become stalwart citizens and parents in their turn, besides relieving untold pain and suffering, and being an estimable benefit to the State.

The fact of a married man becoming automatically POORER at the birth of each child constitutes a cruel wrong to all children, and until each child has 7s. a week in its own individual right, as an infant citizen, suffering, war, disease, and poverty can never be abolished. Let us all demand this from our different Governments NOW, before it may be too late.

S. MACKENZIE KENNEDY.

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For Genuine Old English Furniture and China

MARY CASEY,
29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2

THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE (continued from front page)

the tension was ended, for the card vote showed only 722,000 voted against, whilst 1,885,000 were in favour of Labour sticking to the Government. Mr. Robert Williams moved that the Labour members of the Cabinet should cease to be members of the Labour Party Executive. He referred to Mr. Henderson's avowal that it had been embarrassing for him to be in the Cabinet because secretary of the Party. Why, then, should any other member of the Executive remain in the Government? Another exciting card vote was taken—one thought that this clever move was at least to gain the day, but the result showed 794,000 in favour and 1,561,000 against. Again Mr. Henderson had succeeded in swaying men to follow his lead. It seems as though the delegates have not yet enough confidence to think for themselves!

THE SOLDIERS' CHARTER.

Complete unanimity was gained on the motion in favour of fair dealings towards soldiers and their dependants. Mr. John Scurr made an able plea for the soldiers' widows, and quoted cruel instances illustrative of the present allowance system. This gave Mr. Barnes an opportunity of trying to placate Labour. With a palpable quiver in his voice, he had the effrontery to explain his attitude when in Glasgow. When he heard of men being paid "good wages—£4 and £5 a week" agitating for a 12½ per cent. bonus, he had classed them with the profiteers "because he could not help thinking of the scanty allowances of widows and children!!" Was he not long enough Pensions Minister to rectify these grievances? Further, what must be the feeling of the Right Honourable P.C. about men who in 1914 were receiving £400 per annum and are now enjoying £5,000? Mr. Barnes has lost caste with the workers by playing on the capitalists' fiddle, even the majority of the delegates sniggered whilst he spoke.

THE FOOD PROBLEM.

Mr. W. C. Anderson moved the Food resolution, which condemned the policy of the Government. He referred to our derision of Germany and her rationing scheme, for if we had done likewise such a calamity as the present might have been prevented. "Famine is creeping across Europe," and people are tired of profiteers. He advised "Labour to take control and work out its own welfare and salvation." What was wanted was a constructive policy; all restrictions such as the Game Laws, etc., should be done away with. Mr. Bevin went on to tell of the N.U.R. discontent; men who could not get meat themselves handled parcels of it directed to my lords and ladies. Mr. Bromley also joined in warning about the discontent prevalent in the industrial world. The locomotive men, he assured the Conference, would not stand much more of this privation. These men worked anything from twelve hours to twenty-nine and a half without stopping, and they could not go on with the present inadequate nourishment. Mr. Clynes took up the cudgels of the Government. He stated quite truly that the mere waving of a wand would not, and could not, make food. Lord Rhondda was ready to increase the numbers of Local Food Committees to allow Labour a larger representation. Women should see that they get the larger proportion of these openings in order to put their experience as caterers at the disposal of the nation. Mrs. Neal told of the experiences of the Food Control Committee in Barrow-in-Furness on the subject of fixing the price of milk; but Mr. Clynes spoke as though she did not know what she was talking about, and maintained that local committees could fix prices. Care was to be taken in future, he promised, that the rich should not fare better than the munition worker!

THE CONSTITUTION.

Much excitement was caused by Mr. Robert Smillie's amendment postponing the discussion of the new Labour Party Constitution. The rank and file had not had time to discuss it. Mr. Henderson was very much against delay, though I really fail to see how it could have been discussed during those three days. The Agenda as it stood was too voluminous, and was rushed through at break-neck speed.

Mr. Henderson said an election was not far distant, and Labour could not go to the country and say: "We want your votes, but we won't have you as members." Every man and every woman should be on an equal basis; the one paying 1s. entrance fee, the other 6d.!! I trust the delay gained by Mr. Smillie will give someone time to see that the mere fact of allowing women to pay half the fee of men shows that official Labour, at least, wants to keep women in economic subjection. If equal pay is given, why should women be granted concessions? Mr. G. Lansbury secured a definite time limit for the postponement, and it was decided to discuss the Constitution on February 26th in London.

Dr. Marion Phillips advocated a Ministry of Health, and was cordially supported. Resolutions denouncing present Housing, Disfranchisement of C.O.s, lack of Education, amongst numerous others were rattled through with scant discussion.

One felt that one or two points of vital importance thoroughly discussed and digested would have been far more satisfactory. The almost unanimous desire to discuss the question of the Man-Power Bill was over-ruled; yet what is more vital to Labour than that? It was an action similar to that of Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Auckland Geddes, who chose the Conference week for the debates and refused to postpone them on the ground of the urgency of the measure. Still do these details play much part when compared with the one great achievement of this Conference: the unopposed acknowledgment by official Labour that a People's Peace by negotiation is wanted? Long has been the delay in supporting more advanced democracy, but this tardy backing to the pacifists of the world must be taken at what it is worth.

MAY O'CALLAGHAN.

Mrs. SCHLETTE

We deeply regret to announce the death of our old and valued member, Mrs. Schlette, of Poplar, so well known as a speaker and worker in our movement. Mrs. Schlette for many years was a nurse amongst the very poor, and a worker in the Salvation Army among young girls and children. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

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